



Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin

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National Weather Summary August 22 - 28, 2010

Highlights: Locally heavy rain helped to ease the effects of a hot, drier-than-normal summer in the South and East. However, the rain -- which totaled 4 inches or more along the eastern Gulf Coast and in parts of New York and southern New England -- fell too late to benefit most summer crops. Farther west, cooler air settled across the Corn Belt, accompanied by a string of dry days. In fact, Midwestern rain was confined to western Corn Belt on August 23-24. The mild, dry weather promoted Midwestern summer crop maturation but maintained stress on late-planted soybeans across the southern Corn Belt. Meanwhile on the Plains, most of the week's rain also fell on August 23-24, with the most significant totals (2 inches or more) occurring from central Kansas into eastern Nebraska. An exception was Montana, where early- and late-week showers slowed small grain harvesting but boosted soil moisture in preparation for the upcoming winter wheat establishment season. Elsewhere, scattered showers dotted the Rockies and the Southwest. Several days of hot, dry weather promoted fieldwork and summer crop maturation across the majority of the West, but markedly cooler air arrived toward week's end. Relief from hot weather also reached the south-central United States, although readings of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher were common through August 24. Later, a surge of warmth in advance of a cold front boosted temperatures to 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher as far north as Montana and the Dakotas on August 26-27.

During the first half of the week, record-setting heat persisted across the south-central United States. Dallas-Ft. Worth, Texas, posted consecutive daily-record highs (105 and 107 degrees Fahrenheit) on August 22-23. In San Angelo, Texas, high temperatures reached or exceeded 100 degrees Fahrenheit on 26 consecutive days from July 30 – August 24, easily breaking its 1969 record of 18 days. Elsewhere in Texas, Waco's string of 25 consecutive 100-degree days from July 31 – August 24 was its longest such streak since a 29-day spell of triple-digit heat from July 6 – August 3, 1998. The heat came to an abrupt end, however, as sharply cooler air trailed a cold front into the Nation's midsection. In Oklahoma, Ft. Supply's low of 41 degrees Fahrenheit on August 25 tied a State record for the date. With a low of 48 degrees Fahrenheit on August 26, Amarillo, Texas, tied its monthly record first established on August 30, 1915. Meanwhile, extreme heat briefly affected the West, where Bakersfield, California (111 and 107 degrees Fahrenheit), notched consecutive daily-record highs on August 24-25. Other daily-record highs in California included 121 degrees Fahrenheit (on August 26) in Death Valley; 110 degrees Fahrenheit (on August 25) in Fresno, Redding, and Riverside; and 109 degrees Fahrenheit (on August 24) in Paso Robles. Farther north, sharp temperature fluctuations were noted across the interior Northwest. For example, Pocatello, Idaho, registered a daily-record low of 35 degrees Fahrenheit on August 24, followed by a daily-record high of 100 degrees Fahrenheit on August 26. The latter reading was also Pocatello's latest triple-digit heat, breaking the record set with a high of 101 degrees Fahrenheit on August 15, 2003. Toward week's end, record-setting heat briefly overspread the northern Plains, where both Chadron, Nebraska, and Mobridge, South Dakota, attained 106 degrees Fahrenheit on August 27. It was Chadron's second-hottest August day on record (tied with August 11, 2006, and earlier dates), behind only 108 degrees Fahrenheit on August 6, 1980. By August 28, chilly conditions returned to the West. In California, Santa Rosa notched a daily-record low of 46 degrees Fahrenheit on August 28, just 3 days after posting a daily-record high of 103 degrees Fahrenheit.

A low-pressure system lurking near the northern Atlantic Coast maintained wet conditions during the early- to mid-week period in the Northeast. Parts of Ulster County, New York, received more than 7 inches of rain during the first half of the week. Daily-record rainfall totals for August 22 in New York included 4.21 inches in Syracuse and 1.80 inches in Binghamton. It was also Syracuse's wettest August day on record, surpassing the mark of 2.98 inches set on August 28, 1990. The following day, August 23, a wind gust to 69 miles per hour was clocked on Horseshoe Shoal in

Nantucket Sound. Heavy rain lingered through midweek in coastal New England, where daily-record totals for August 25 included 2.76 inches in Boston, Massachusetts, and 2.64 inches in Portland, Maine. Milton, Massachusetts, reported an August 22-25 event total of 7.59 inches. Meanwhile, locally heavy showers dotted the Southeast, where daily-record amounts reached 5.27 inches (on August 24) at Cape Hatteras, North Carolina; 4.92 inches (on August 23) in Sarasota-Bradenton, Florida; 3.21 inches (on August 22) in Savannah, Georgia; and 2.55 inches (on August 24) in Lynchburg, Virginia. Heavy showers also briefly flared across the central Plains and the western Corn Belt, where Sioux City, Iowa (2.18 inches), collected a daily-record rainfall for August 23.

Relatively tranquil weather and near-normal temperatures prevailed in both Alaska and Hawaii. At week's end, however, wet weather developed in parts of Alaska, resulting in a daily-record total of 1.22 inches (on August 28) in Anchorage. Meanwhile on Hawaii's Big Island, Hilo's month-to-date precipitation totaled just 4.06 inches (46 percent of normal), despite measurable rainfall on 26 of 28 days.

*National Weather Summary provided by USDA's World Agricultural Outlook Board.
For more information, call (202) 720-2397.*

Agricultural Summary

August 23 – 29, 2010

Highlights: With the exception of the Pacific Northwest, where temperatures fell to as many as 8 degrees below normal, above average temperatures dominated much of the country during the week, promoting the continued rapid development of summer crops such as corn, cotton, and soybeans. Lingering showers along the Gulf Coast delivered some much needed moisture to areas of the Delta and Southeast, while much of the Corn Belt welcomed a relatively rain-free week that promoted drying in previously saturated summer crop fields.

Corn: Nearly ideal growing conditions throughout the major corn-producing areas of the Nation continued to promote rapid phenological development of this year's crop. By August 29, corn at or beyond the dough stage had advanced to 94 percent complete, 21 percentage points ahead of last year and 8 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Double-digit progress was evident in 14 of the 18 major estimating States during the week and by week's end, 73 percent of this year's corn acreage was at or beyond the dented stage, 43 percentage points, or over 18 days, ahead of last year and 18 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Denting progress in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, and Minnesota was 52 percentage points or more ahead of last year and 20 percentage points or more ahead of the 5-year average. Corn in the mature stage advanced 9 points during the week, leaving progress, at 17 percent complete, 12 percentage points ahead of last year and 6 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Overall, 70 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from ratings last week but up slightly from the same time last year.

Soybeans: Nationally, 96 percent of this year's soybean acreage was at the pod setting stage or beyond by week's end, 4 percentage points ahead of last year and slightly ahead of the 5-year average. Pod setting was complete or nearly complete in all estimating States except Missouri and North Carolina, where progress was ahead of both last year and the average, and Kansas, where progress trailed both last year and the average. By August 29, leaves were dropping on 8 percent of the soybean acreage, 5 percentage points ahead of last year and slightly ahead of the 5-year average. Leaf dropping was most advanced in Louisiana and Mississippi. Overall, 64 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from ratings last week but down 5 percentage points from the same time last year.

Cotton: Nationwide, boll setting advanced to 96 percent complete by week's end, 4 percentage points ahead of last year and 2 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Twenty-nine percent of the cotton acreage was opening bolls or beyond by August 29, eleven percentage points ahead of last year and 6 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Boosted by warm temperatures throughout the growing season, bolls were opening at a rapid pace across the Delta and Southeast where progress was well ahead of both last year and the average. Overall, 60 percent of the cotton crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 2 percentage points from ratings last week but 9 percentage points better than the same time last year. In Texas, spider mites coupled with a lack of available soil moisture negatively impacted fields in the Southern High Plains, while army worms and grasshoppers were evident irrigated cotton fields in the Cross Timbers.

Sorghum: Heading of this year's sorghum crop was complete or nearly complete in all estimating States except New Mexico. Overall progress advanced to 95 percent complete by August 29, four percentage points ahead of last year and 5 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Fifty-eight percent of the sorghum acreage was at or beyond the coloring stage, 12 percentage points ahead of last year and 4 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Warm temperatures prevailed throughout much of the Great Plains, promoting continued rapid coloring. Maturity inched forward during the week, advancing just 1 point to 26 percent complete by week's end, 2 percentage points behind last year and 3 percentage points behind the 5-year average. With activity limited to the Delta and Texas, 17 percent of the Nation's sorghum crop was harvested by August 29, seven percentage points behind last year and 6 percentage points behind the 5-year average. While the harvest pace was well ahead of normal in the Delta, progress in Texas trailed last year by 19 percentage points and the 5-year average by 16 percentage points. Overall, 62 percent of the sorghum crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down slightly from ratings last week but 13 percentage points better than the same time last year.

Rice: By week's end, 93 percent of the rice crop was at the heading stage or beyond, 5 percentage points ahead of last year but slightly behind the 5-year average. While heading was complete throughout the Delta, progress continued to trail normal in California and Texas. Harvest advanced to 32 percent by August 29, seventeen percentage points ahead of last

year and 15 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Overall, 68 percent of the rice crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from ratings last week but up 2 percentage points from the same time last year.

Small Grains: Nationally, 96 percent of the oat crop was harvested by week's end, 15 percentage points ahead of last year and slightly ahead of the 5-year average.

A week of dry, mostly sunny conditions allowed producers throughout the major barley-producing regions ample time to harvest 19 percent of the Nation's crop during the week. By August 29, harvest had advanced to 71 percent complete, 28 percentage points ahead of last year but 5 percentage points behind the average.

Spring wheat producers had harvested 69 percent of this year's crop by week's end, 33 percentage points ahead of last year but 6 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Despite producers in Idaho and Montana utilizing nearly a week of days suitable for fieldwork to harvest 17 percent or more of their crop during the week, overall progress in these States remained 32 percentage points or more behind the 5-year average.

Other Crops: Overall, 59 percent of the peanut crop was reported in good to excellent condition, up 3 percentage points from ratings last week but 13 percentage points below the same time last year.

Corn Dough – Selected States

[These 18 States planted 92% of the 2009 corn acreage]

State	Week ending			2005-2009 Average
	August 29, 2009	August 22, 2010	August 29, 2010	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Colorado	58	72	86	69
Illinois	76	95	99	91
Indiana	77	91	96	89
Iowa	70	87	94	83
Kansas	92	93	95	95
Kentucky	83	90	99	94
Michigan	62	87	94	81
Minnesota	48	81	95	79
Missouri	89	83	92	93
Nebraska	87	95	98	93
North Carolina	99	100	100	99
North Dakota	27	83	95	70
Ohio	81	91	96	86
Pennsylvania	66	59	77	80
South Dakota	64	84	90	82
Tennessee	96	99	100	99
Texas	98	87	88	98
Wisconsin	55	76	85	70
18 States	73	88	94	86

Corn Dented – Selected States

[These 18 States planted 92% of the 2009 corn acreage]

State	Week ending			2005-2009 Average
	August 29, 2009	August 22, 2010	August 29, 2010	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Colorado	28	10	30	30
Illinois	24	73	87	61
Indiana	21	61	77	50
Iowa	25	54	77	50
Kansas	62	68	82	74
Kentucky	66	78	87	81
Michigan	12	54	74	39
Minnesota	6	35	68	48
Missouri	64	57	75	76
Nebraska	50	50	70	64
North Carolina	94	94	97	91
North Dakota	1	25	48	31
Ohio	32	58	72	45
Pennsylvania	26	31	46	47
South Dakota	10	32	53	42
Tennessee	81	96	98	93
Texas	83	69	71	89
Wisconsin	6	34	60	27
18 States	30	54	73	55

Corn Mature – Selected States

[These 18 States planted 92% of the 2009 corn acreage]

State	Week ending			2005-2009 Average
	August 29, 2009	August 22, 2010	August 29, 2010	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Colorado	5	-	-	3
Illinois	2	13	34	11
Indiana	-	6	21	6
Iowa	-	1	8	5
Kansas	11	21	35	25
Kentucky	17	33	65	42
Michigan	-	6	16	3
Minnesota	-	-	2	3
Missouri	12	16	34	35
Nebraska	1	1	2	4
North Carolina	71	71	83	69
North Dakota	-	-	1	3
Ohio	2	4	7	3
Pennsylvania	3	2	5	13
South Dakota	1	-	2	3
Tennessee	15	54	75	49
Texas	70	56	57	68
Wisconsin	-	1	7	1
18 States	5	8	17	11

- Represents zero.

Corn Condition – Selected States: Week Ending August 29, 2010

[National crop conditions for selected States are weighted based on 2009 planted acreage]

State	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Colorado	-	2	14	62	22
Illinois	4	9	25	47	15
Indiana	5	11	27	42	15
Iowa	4	7	20	44	25
Kansas	3	10	28	48	11
Kentucky	7	16	33	38	6
Michigan	2	5	21	45	27
Minnesota	-	2	7	51	40
Missouri	6	16	30	38	10
Nebraska	1	4	14	57	24
North Carolina	16	22	33	24	5
North Dakota	1	4	14	55	26
Ohio	2	9	25	48	16
Pennsylvania	4	12	27	43	14
South Dakota	2	7	17	56	18
Tennessee	8	14	31	38	9
Texas	3	6	16	52	23
Wisconsin	1	4	13	40	42
18 States	3	7	20	48	22
Previous week	3	7	20	47	23
Previous year	3	7	21	49	20

- Represents zero.

Soybeans Setting Pods – Selected States

[These 18 States planted 95% of the 2009 soybean acreage]

State	Week ending			2005-2009 Average
	August 29, 2009	August 22, 2010	August 29, 2010	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Arkansas	91	95	98	95
Illinois	88	92	98	95
Indiana	86	95	97	93
Iowa	97	95	98	98
Kansas	92	74	85	90
Kentucky	86	90	97	85
Louisiana	100	96	99	99
Michigan	93	97	98	98
Minnesota	96	96	99	99
Mississippi	100	98	99	100
Missouri	79	69	86	85
Nebraska	97	95	97	98
North Carolina	75	70	83	74
North Dakota	97	100	100	99
Ohio	96	95	99	99
South Dakota	94	97	99	97
Tennessee	95	94	97	95
Wisconsin	91	91	96	96
18 States	92	91	96	95

Soybeans Dropping Leaves – Selected States

[These 18 States planted 95% of the 2009 soybean acreage]

State	Week ending			2005-2009 Average
	August 29, 2009	August 22, 2010	August 29, 2010	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Arkansas	6	(NA)	18	15
Illinois	-	(NA)	5	3
Indiana	2	(NA)	14	6
Iowa	-	(NA)	3	2
Kansas	-	(NA)	3	5
Kentucky	3	(NA)	15	5
Louisiana	38	(NA)	48	44
Michigan	-	(NA)	2	1
Minnesota	-	(NA)	2	3
Mississippi	21	(NA)	49	46
Missouri	1	(NA)	2	2
Nebraska	-	(NA)	1	1
North Carolina	1	(NA)	1	4
North Dakota	-	(NA)	6	7
Ohio	2	(NA)	8	6
South Dakota	10	(NA)	17	12
Tennessee	4	(NA)	25	19
Wisconsin	-	(NA)	1	1
18 States	3	(NA)	8	7

- Represents zero.

(NA) Not available.

Soybean Condition – Selected States: Week Ending August 29, 2010

[National crop conditions for selected States are weighted based on 2009 planted acreage]

State	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Arkansas	5	18	35	32	10
Illinois	3	8	30	46	13
Indiana	6	11	28	41	14
Iowa	3	7	21	45	24
Kansas	5	12	31	45	7
Kentucky	13	22	34	24	7
Louisiana	1	8	31	51	9
Michigan	2	5	23	47	23
Minnesota	-	1	10	57	32
Mississippi	6	14	30	37	13
Missouri	7	16	32	36	9
Nebraska	1	4	19	55	21
North Carolina	5	10	31	48	6
North Dakota	1	2	11	59	27
Ohio	2	9	26	48	15
South Dakota	2	9	19	52	18
Tennessee	7	13	31	40	9
Wisconsin	1	2	13	45	39
18 States	3	9	24	46	18
Previous week	4	9	23	46	18
Previous year	2	6	23	53	16

- Represents zero.

Cotton Setting Bolls – Selected States

[These 15 States planted 99% of the 2009 cotton acreage]

State	Week ending			2005-2009 Average
	August 29, 2009	August 22, 2010	August 29, 2010	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	88	85	92	95
Arizona	99	95	97	100
Arkansas	100	100	100	100
California	99	90	93	97
Georgia	98	98	100	99
Kansas	94	91	96	92
Louisiana	100	100	100	100
Mississippi	100	100	100	100
Missouri	99	100	100	100
North Carolina	98	98	100	99
Oklahoma	94	96	100	96
South Carolina	96	86	94	95
Tennessee	100	99	100	100
Texas	88	91	94	91
Virginia	100	91	94	100
15 States	92	94	96	94

Cotton Bolls Opening – Selected States

[These 15 States planted 99% of the 2009 cotton acreage]

State	Week ending			2005-2009 Average
	August 29, 2009	August 22, 2010	August 29, 2010	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	8	36	50	27
Arizona	47	30	45	49
Arkansas	14	31	65	32
California	20	10	20	23
Georgia	9	29	44	19
Kansas	6	10	12	5
Louisiana	56	69	75	55
Mississippi	20	50	71	41
Missouri	2	14	33	21
North Carolina	11	25	43	15
Oklahoma	7	10	21	9
South Carolina	11	8	12	14
Tennessee	7	28	44	22
Texas	20	14	15	20
Virginia	27	4	9	35
15 States	18	21	29	23

Cotton Condition – Selected States: Week Ending August 29, 2010

[National crop conditions for selected States are weighted based on 2009 planted acreage]

State	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	8	19	40	29	4
Arizona	-	-	-	75	25
Arkansas	1	5	32	43	19
California	-	-	15	55	30
Georgia	8	17	32	35	8
Kansas	2	6	33	53	6
Louisiana	1	14	29	50	6
Mississippi	4	10	28	46	12
Missouri	11	24	22	38	5
North Carolina	4	15	33	42	6
Oklahoma	2	6	29	49	14
South Carolina	-	2	26	64	8
Tennessee	1	3	26	56	14
Texas	2	6	28	46	18
Virginia	9	28	46	17	-
15 States	3	9	28	45	15
Previous week	3	8	27	46	16
Previous year	9	11	29	40	11

- Represents zero.

Peanut Condition – Selected States: Week Ending August 29, 2010

[National crop conditions for selected States are weighted based on 2009 planted acreage]

State	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	3	10	48	32	7
Florida	-	1	13	70	16
Georgia	2	9	38	40	11
North Carolina	3	9	49	38	1
Oklahoma	2	1	23	66	8
South Carolina	-	1	22	68	9
Texas	-	1	10	64	25
Virginia	11	22	52	15	-
8 States	2	7	32	47	12
Previous week	2	8	34	45	11
Previous year	-	3	25	59	13

- Represents zero.

Sorghum Headed – Selected States

[These 11 States planted 98% of the 2009 sorghum acreage]

State	Week ending			2005-2009 Average
	August 29, 2009	August 22, 2010	August 29, 2010	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Arkansas	100	100	100	100
Colorado	83	94	99	91
Illinois	77	93	100	93
Kansas	89	89	95	90
Louisiana	100	100	100	100
Missouri	86	91	95	92
Nebraska	93	98	99	97
New Mexico	88	58	72	71
Oklahoma	73	85	94	79
South Dakota	91	96	98	96
Texas	94	93	94	91
11 States	91	91	95	90

Sorghum Coloring – Selected States

[These 11 States planted 98% of the 2009 sorghum acreage]

State	Week ending			2005-2009 Average
	August 29, 2009	August 22, 2010	August 29, 2010	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Arkansas	92	99	100	96
Colorado	54	40	48	48
Illinois	20	50	62	55
Kansas	24	24	44	41
Louisiana	100	100	100	99
Missouri	40	50	65	55
Nebraska	15	20	39	38
New Mexico	14	10	21	19
Oklahoma	36	46	54	40
South Dakota	31	40	63	52
Texas	71	70	74	69
11 States	46	46	58	54

Sorghum Mature – Selected States

[These 11 States planted 98% of the 2009 sorghum acreage]

State	Week ending			2005-2009 Average
	August 29, 2009	August 22, 2010	August 29, 2010	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Arkansas	50	90	95	70
Colorado	15	1	6	9
Illinois	3	1	3	11
Kansas	-	1	3	3
Louisiana	95	96	100	92
Missouri	9	5	18	12
Nebraska	-	-	-	-
New Mexico	-	-	-	2
Oklahoma	4	8	13	11
South Dakota	2	-	1	3
Texas	64	54	55	61
11 States	28	25	26	29

- Represents zero.

Sorghum Harvested – Selected States

[These 11 States harvested 99% of the 2009 sorghum acreage]

State	Week ending			2005-2009 Average
	August 29, 2009	August 22, 2010	August 29, 2010	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Arkansas	4	(NA)	62	21
Colorado	-	(NA)	-	-
Illinois	-	(NA)	-	-
Kansas	-	(NA)	-	-
Louisiana	66	(NA)	85	69
Missouri	-	(NA)	3	1
Nebraska	-	(NA)	-	-
New Mexico	-	(NA)	-	-
Oklahoma	-	(NA)	-	2
South Dakota	-	(NA)	-	-
Texas	61	(NA)	42	58
11 States	24	(NA)	17	23

- Represents zero.

(NA) Not available.

Sorghum Condition – Selected States: Week Ending August 29, 2010

[National crop conditions for selected States are weighted based on 2009 planted acreage]

State	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Arkansas	4	20	55	19	2
Colorado	1	4	19	57	19
Illinois	5	8	30	41	16
Kansas	3	9	30	51	7
Louisiana	1	1	30	68	-
Missouri	2	8	30	56	4
Nebraska	-	2	20	61	17
New Mexico	-	-	38	57	5
Oklahoma	1	3	30	52	14
South Dakota	-	3	17	68	12
Texas	5	7	28	50	10
11 States	3	7	28	53	9
Previous week	2	7	27	55	9
Previous year	11	10	30	40	9

- Represents zero.

Rice Headed – Selected States

[These 6 States planted 100% of the 2009 rice acreage]

State	Week ending			2005-2009 Average
	August 29, 2009	August 22, 2010	August 29, 2010	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Arkansas	86	99	100	94
California	84	35	60	86
Louisiana	100	99	100	100
Mississippi	98	100	100	98
Missouri	69	96	100	92
Texas	97	91	95	99
6 States	88	87	93	94

Rice Harvested – Selected States

[These 6 States harvested 100% of the 2009 rice acreage]

State	Week ending			2005-2009 Average
	August 29, 2009	August 22, 2010	August 29, 2010	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Arkansas	3	14	29	5
California	-	-	-	-
Louisiana	64	48	67	64
Mississippi	3	15	40	6
Missouri	-	3	12	2
Texas	65	58	78	75
6 States	15	18	32	17

- Represents zero.

Rice Condition – Selected States: Week Ending August 29, 2010

[National crop conditions for selected States are weighted based on 2009 planted acreage]

State	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Arkansas	-	5	33	40	22
California	-	5	25	65	5
Louisiana	-	2	25	56	17
Mississippi	-	4	18	48	30
Missouri	-	1	9	58	32
Texas	1	3	36	48	12
6 States	-	4	28	49	19
Previous week	1	5	26	48	20
Previous year	1	5	28	46	20

- Represents zero.

Spring Wheat Harvested – Selected States

[These 6 States harvested 99% of the 2009 spring wheat acreage]

State	Week ending			2005-2009 Average
	August 29, 2009	August 22, 2010	August 29, 2010	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Idaho	55	14	34	66
Minnesota	26	89	97	75
Montana	40	14	31	73
North Dakota	20	53	74	70
South Dakota	89	94	95	97
Washington	77	45	68	81
6 States	36	53	69	75

Barley Harvested – Selected States

[These 5 States harvested 81% of the 2009 barley acreage]

State	Week ending			2005-2009 Average
	August 29, 2009	August 22, 2010	August 29, 2010	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Idaho	45	30	48	62
Minnesota	37	95	99	84
Montana	41	25	52	72
North Dakota	40	77	91	83
Washington	80	43	68	81
5 States	43	52	71	76

Oats Harvested – Selected States

[These 9 States harvested 67% of the 2009 oat acreage]

State	Week ending			2005-2009 Average
	August 29, 2009	August 22, 2010	August 29, 2010	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Iowa	100	99	100	100
Minnesota	71	95	99	92
Nebraska	100	100	100	100
North Dakota	39	69	85	81
Ohio	100	100	100	100
Pennsylvania	96	97	97	98
South Dakota	90	97	99	98
Texas	100	100	100	100
Wisconsin	92	86	94	97
9 States	81	90	96	94

Pasture and Range Condition – Selected States: Week Ending August 29, 2010

[National pasture and range conditions for selected States are weighted based on pasture acreage and/or livestock inventories]

State	Very poor (percent)	Poor (percent)	Fair (percent)	Good (percent)	Excellent (percent)
Alabama	9	24	43	23	1
Arizona	19	5	15	41	20
Arkansas	26	36	30	8	-
California	5	30	25	40	-
Colorado	-	8	35	50	7
Connecticut	3	36	43	18	-
Delaware	8	11	47	31	3
Florida	-	3	12	70	15
Georgia	2	14	45	35	4
Idaho	1	12	28	50	9
Illinois	4	9	35	44	8
Indiana	11	25	39	22	3
Iowa	2	6	28	49	15
Kansas	4	11	36	45	4
Kentucky	16	22	22	35	5
Louisiana	2	11	42	38	7
Maine	5	42	31	8	14
Maryland	10	25	33	27	5
Massachusetts	-	7	27	66	-
Michigan	4	15	34	36	11
Minnesota	-	1	13	66	20
Mississippi	2	14	36	39	9
Missouri	15	16	30	32	7
Montana	5	7	34	45	9
Nebraska	1	2	13	71	13
Nevada	3	8	64	22	3
New Hampshire	7	5	37	47	4
New Jersey	-	30	40	30	-
New Mexico	5	9	33	42	11
New York	1	6	30	54	9
North Carolina	4	20	36	38	2
North Dakota	-	6	31	55	8
Ohio	3	10	32	46	9
Oklahoma	4	20	46	28	2
Oregon	23	30	37	10	-
Pennsylvania	15	17	28	34	6
Rhode Island	-	13	50	37	-
South Carolina	3	8	36	51	2
South Dakota	2	8	24	53	13
Tennessee	7	21	41	30	1
Texas	8	19	41	27	5
Utah	1	5	27	53	14
Vermont	3	21	35	39	2
Virginia	16	39	30	14	1
Washington	15	16	37	31	1
West Virginia	18	30	31	20	1
Wisconsin	1	2	14	59	24
Wyoming	-	5	27	56	12
48 States	6	15	31	41	7
Previous week	5	14	29	43	9
Previous year	10	11	27	44	8

- Represents zero.

Crop Progress and Condition Tables Expected Next Week

Barley: Harvested

Corn: Dough, Dented, Mature, Harvested, Condition

Cotton: Bolls Opening, Harvested, Condition

Pasture and Range: Condition

Peanuts: Condition

Rice: Headed, Harvested, Condition

Sorghum: Coloring, Mature, Harvested, Condition

Soybeans: Dropping Leaves, Condition

Spring Wheat: Harvested

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Crop progress and condition estimates are based on survey data collected each week from early April through the end of November. The non-probability crop progress and condition surveys include input from approximately 5,000 reporters whose occupations provide them opportunities to make visual observations and frequently bring them in contact with farmers in their counties. Based on standard definitions, these reporters subjectively estimate the progress of crops through various stages of development, as well as the progress of producer activities. They also provide subjective evaluations of crop conditions.

Most reporters complete their questionnaires on Friday or early Monday morning and submit them to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Field Offices in their States by mail, telephone, fax, e-mail, or through a secured internet website. A small number of reports are completed on Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday. Regardless of when questionnaires are completed, reporters are asked to report for the entire week ending on Sunday. For reports submitted prior to the Sunday reference date, a degree of uncertainty is introduced by projections for weekend changes in progress and condition. By the end of the 2009 season, over 80 percent of the data were being submitted through the internet website. As a result, the majority of all data are submitted on Monday morning, significantly reducing projection uncertainty.

Reporters are sent written reporting instructions at the beginning of each season and are contacted periodically to ensure proper reporting. Terms and definitions of crop stages and condition categories used as reporting guidelines are available on the NASS website at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/National_Crop_Progress.

Estimating Procedures: Reported data are reviewed for reasonableness and consistency by comparing with data reported the previous week and data reported in surrounding counties for the current week. Each State Field Office summarizes the reported data to district and State levels, weighting each county's reported data by NASS county acreage estimates. Summarized indications are compared with previous week estimates, and progress items are compared with earlier stages of development and historical averages to ensure reasonableness. Weather events and reporter comments are also taken into consideration. State estimates are submitted to the Agricultural Statistics Board (ASB) along with supporting comments, where they are compared with surrounding States and compiled into a National level summary by weighting each State by its acreage estimates.

Revision Policy: Progress and condition estimates in the *Crop Progress* report are released after 4:00 pm ET on the first business day of the week. These estimates are preliminary and subject to corrections or updates in the *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin* that is released at 12:00 pm ET on the second business day of the week. These estimates are subject to revision the following week.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity statisticians in the Crops Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

Lance Honig, Chief, Crops Branch.....	(202) 720-2127
Jacqueline Moore, Head, Field Crops Section.....	(202) 720-2127
Suzanne Avilla – Peanuts, Rice	(202) 720-7688
Shiela Corley – Cotton, Cotton Ginnings, Sorghum.....	(202) 720-5944
Bryan Durham – Hay, Oats.....	(202) 690-3234
Anthony Prillaman – Corn, Proso Millet, Flaxseed	(202) 720-9526
Nick Schauer – Wheat, Rye	(202) 720-8068
Julie Schmidt – Crop Weather, Barley, Sugar Crops.....	(202) 720-7621
Travis Thorson – Soybeans, Sunflower, Other Oilseeds	(202) 720-7369

Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>
- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit <http://www.nass.usda.gov> and in the “Receive NASS Updates” box under “Receive reports by Email,” click on “National” or “State” to select the reports you would like to receive.
- Printed reports may be purchased from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) by calling toll-free (800) 999-6779, or (703) 605-6220 if calling from outside the United States or Canada. Accepted methods of payment are Visa, MasterCard, check, or money order.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.

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USDA Data Users' Meeting

Monday October 25, 2010

Crowne Plaza Chicago-Metro

Chicago, Illinois 60661

312-829-5000

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will be organizing an open forum for data users. The purpose will be to provide updates on pending changes in the various statistical and information programs and seek comments and input from data users. Other USDA agencies to be represented will include the Agricultural Marketing Service, the Economic Research Service, the Foreign Agricultural Service, and the World Agricultural Outlook Board. The Foreign Trade Division from the Census Bureau will also be included in the meeting.

For registration details or additional information for the Data Users' Meeting, see the NASS homepage at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/meeting/> or contact Marie Jordan (NASS) at 202-690-8141 or at marie_jordan@nass.usda.gov.

This Data Users' Meeting precedes an Industry Outlook Meeting that will be held at the same location on Tuesday October 26, 2010. The Outlook meeting brings together analysts from various commodity sectors to discuss the outlook situation. For registration details or additional information for the Industry Outlook Meeting, see the Livestock and Marketing Information Center (LMIC) homepage at <http://www.lmic.info/> or contact Erica Rosa 303-236-0461 at rosa@lmic.info or Laura Lahr 303-236-0464 at lahr@lmic.info.